

Serial No. 09/878,185  
HP 30015421-2 US  
LHB 1509-187  
Page 3

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please **cancel claim 6** without prejudice or disclaimer; **amend claims 1, 2, and 7; and add claims 19 and 20** as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method of managing a plurality of user accounts assigned to a computer entity, said method comprising the steps of:

determining an overall predicted future utilization of functionality of said computer entity which will be required to support said plurality of user accounts, said predicted future utilization differing from utilization at the present time;

comparing said predicted utilization of functionality with a currently available amount of unused functionality of said computer entity; and

allowing or disallowing addition of a new user account onto said computer entity, depending upon a result of said comparison.

2. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]] A method as claimed in claim 1~~  
of managing a plurality of user accounts assigned to a computer entity, further said method comprising the [[step]] steps of:

determining an overall predicted future utilization of functionality of said computer entity which will be required to support said plurality of user accounts;

Serial No. 09/878,185  
HP 30015421-2 US  
LHB 1509-187  
Page 4

comparing said predicted utilization of functionality with a currently available amount of unused functionality of said computer entity;

allowing or disallowing addition of a new user account onto said computer entity, depending upon a result of said comparison;  
and

for each user account, generating a predicted usage of functionality provided by said computer entity over a predetermined look-ahead period.

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

for each user account, generating a predicted usage of functionality provided by said computer entity to said user account over a predetermined look-ahead period by applying a trend prediction algorithm to historical data describing an actual historical utilization of said functionality by said user account.

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of determining an overall predicted future utilization of functionality comprises:

for each user account, determining a time period in which said user account has been installed on said computer entity;

Serial No. 09/878,185  
HP 30015421-2 US  
LHB 1509-187  
Page 5

depending upon the value of said time period since installation, selecting a prediction algorithm from a set of prediction algorithms for estimating a predicted future utilization requirement of said user account.

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said step of determining an overall future utilization comprises:

predicting a future utilization of at least one said user account by applying a predetermined percentage rate of increase to a current utilization of said user account.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) A computer entity comprising:

at least one data processor;

at least one data storage device; and

a capacity management component for managing data storage capacity of said data storage device, said capacity management component comprising:

a prediction component for predicting future utilization of data storage capacity for a plurality of user accounts, said predicted future utilization differing from utilization at the present time;

Serial No. 09/878,185  
HP 30015421-2 US  
LHB 1509-187  
Page 6

a compare component for comparing a predicted future utilization of said plurality of user accounts with a data storage capacity currently available for use on said data storage device; and

a control component arranged to activate said prediction component and compare component.

8. (*Previously presented*) The computer entity as claimed in claim 7, wherein said control component is arranged to activate said prediction component and said compare component in response to a request to enter a new user account on said computer entity.

9. (*Previously presented*) The computer entity as claimed in claim 7, wherein said control component is arranged to activate said prediction component and said compare component at a timed interval.

10. (*Previously presented*) A computer entity as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

an alert generation component for generating a warning alert message in response to a predicted utilization of said data storage capacity approaching a currently available unused data storage capacity.

11. (*Original*) The computer entity as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

Serial No. 09/878,185  
HP 30015421-2 US  
LHB 1509-187  
Page 7

a capacity limit modification component for allowing an administrator to modify a capacity warning limit.

12. (Previously presented) A method of operating a computer entity comprising at least one data processor, and a data storage device for automatically admitting or rejecting a new user account onto said computer entity, said method comprising the steps of:

in response to a request to add a new user account to said computer entity:

(i) generating a prediction of future utilization of data storage capacity required by said requested new user account for a predetermined look-ahead period;

(ii) for each of a plurality of user accounts currently installed on said computer entity, determining a predicted future utilization of capacity by said user account;

(iii) from said result of steps (i) and (ii), determining an overall predicted future utilization of said functionality of said computer entity over said predetermined look-ahead period;

(iv) determining a currently available unutilized functionality of said computer entity, unused by any of said current user accounts;

(v) comparing said currently unused functionality with said predicted future utilization of functionality; and

Serial No. 09/878,185  
HP 30015421-2 US  
LHB 1509-187  
Page 8

(vi) depending upon a result of said comparison, allowing or disallowing entry of said new user account onto said computer entity.

13. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the step of:

(vii) generating an alert signal if, as a result of said comparison step, said predicted future utilization of functionality is within a predetermined percentage of said currently available unused functionality.

14. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the steps of:

displaying an alert message describing a condition that a predicted future utilization of functionality is close to a currently unused functionality; and

allowing modification of a level of comparison at which said alert message is triggered.

15. (Previously presented) A computer entity for performing the steps of claim 1.

16. (Previously presented) A computer entity for performing the steps of claim 12.

Serial No. 09/878,185  
HP 30015421-2 US  
LHB 1509-187  
Page 9

17. (Previously presented) A memory or machine-readable medium programmed to cause a computer to perform the method of claim 1.

18. (Previously presented) A memory or machine-readable medium programmed to cause a computer to perform the method of claim 12.

19. (New) A computer entity for performing the steps of claim 2.

20. (New) A memory or machine-readable medium programmed to cause a computer to perform the method of claim 2.